

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 054253  
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA:HHS AUENDERS:HE/JD  
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY  
NSC:WQUANDT (SUBS)  
S/S:P.TARNOFF

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O 030053Z MAR 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 054253

NODIS  
CHEROKEE, JERUSALEM AND AMMAN FOR ATHERTON EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IS, US, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

1. FYI. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT BEGIN, HAVING AT SOME PAIN  
PRODUCED A CABINET DECISION TO CONTAIN SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY  
FOR THE MOMENT, WILL COME TO WASHINGTON FEELING HE CAN  
NEGOTIATE SOME CONCESSION FROM US (PERHAPS RE INTERPRETA-  
TION OF RESOLUTION 242) IN RETURN FOR A FREEZE ON NEW  
SETTLEMENTS. IF THIS WERE TO BE THE CASE, IT WOULD BE A  
MOST REGRETTABLE TACTIC. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO BARGAIN  
IN THIS MANNER AND ANY SUCH APPROACH BY BEGIN WOULD ONLY  
INCREASE CONFRONTATIONAL ASPECTS OF VISIT. THE PURPOSE  
OF THIS INSTRUCTION IS TO WORK OUT WITH YOU A SUITABLE  
APPROACH TO BEGIN TO GET THIS POINT ACROSS. AN APPROACH

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MUST BE MADE FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT WE RELY HEAVILY ON YOUR  
JUDGMENT ON BEST WAY TO DO IT. END FYI.

2. IN APPROACHING BEGIN ON THIS SUBJECT WE PROPOSE THAT  
YOU MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- PRESIDENT HAS SEEN BEGIN'S EXPLANATION OF CABINET

DECISION AS STOPPING ALL NEW SETTLEMENT WORK IN SINAI AND LIMITING FURTHER WEST BANK ACTIVITY TO TWO SITES WITHIN MILITARY CAMPS APPROVED ON JANUARY 8. THE PRESIDENT

BELIEVES IT WAS A WISE DECISION TO HALT ACTIVITY ALTHOUGH, OBVIOUSLY, HE REGRETS THAT ISRAEL IS PROCEEDING WITH ANY FURTHER SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK OR SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND ANYWHERE.

-- PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT HALT IN SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF SETTING STAGE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS. THAT IS SOMETHING ISRAEL MUST DEAL WITH IN CONNECTION WITH ITS OWN DECISIONS ON HOW TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. THE U.S. POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED -- THAT A HALT TO SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IS ESSENTIAL AS A BASIS FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE QUESTION OF A HALT IN SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IS NOT A SUBJECT WHICH THE U.S. FORESEES AS A SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION.

-- THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF THE SETTLEMENTS, OF COURSE, IS SOMETHING THAT WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

3. EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS HAVE MADE THE WHOLE QUESTION OF EXISTENCE AND FUTURE OF SETTLEMENTS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. WHAT ISRAEL NOW SAYS AND DOES THAT SEEMS TO PRE-SECRET

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JUDGE OR PREJUDICE THAT NEGOTIATION WILL, IN OUR JUDGMENT, SERIOUSLY HAMPER SOLUTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS SINCE THE CABINET DECISION WHICH SEEM INCONSISTENT WITH BEGIN'S ASSURANCES PASSED TO SADAT AND WHICH ARE VERY UNHELPFUL TO BEGIN'S PRESUMED PURPOSE OF DEMONSTRATING TO SADAT A CONCILIATORY APPROACH TO THE ISSUE. WE HAVE IN MIND, FOR EXAMPLE, PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY DAYAN AND HAIM LANDAU. THIS IS AS MUCH A PUBLIC ISSUE FOR SADAT AS FOR BEGIN AND AN ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT FOR HIM WITH THE OTHER ARABS, INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF HIS FAILURE TO ACHIEVE VISIBLE PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS. PRIVATE ASSURANCES ARE NOT OF MUCH HELP TO HIM WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT ARE PROVOCATIVE AND CONVEY AN IMPRESSION OPPOSITE TO THAT CONVEYED IN THE PRIVATE ASSURANCES.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, OVIP, IS, US, XF, (BEGIN, MENACHEM)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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